Proceedings of the Assembly of Representative Raiyats and Merchants from all the Taluks of the State held at Mysore in October 1895.

MEMORANDUM.

The Fifteenth Assembly of Representative Raiyats and Merchants was held in the Durbar Hall of the Public Office Buildings at Mysore on Tuesday, the 1st of October 1895, and the following five days.

2. The Assembly, which was constituted under the Revised Rules of 10th June 1894, contained 273 persons as particularized below :—

	Number of persons elected.
66 Taluks, including Sub-Taluks	212
25 Municipal Boards, each representing a population of 5,000 and above	40
9 Local Fund Boards	16
7 Associations representing public interests	5
Total ...	273

Of the Members elected—

3 were Europeans,
18 „ Mahomedans, and
252 „ Hindus.

Arranged according to occupation—.

38 were Merchants,
6 „ Sahukars,
139 „ Land-holders, and
90 „ of other occupations.

3. On the day of the opening of the Assembly, 191 Members were present. The names of those who were elected and of those who attended on the first day are given in the list appended to these Proceedings (*vide* Appendix C).

4. Before the commencement of proceedings on 1st October 1895, Mr. Mackworth Young, the British Resident, by desire of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent, unveiled the statue of Sir James Gordon, K.C.S.I. The principal Officers of the State and the Members of the Assembly were present, and Mr. Mackworth Young made the following speech :—

DEWAN, COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS OF THE MYSORE GOVERNMENT, MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The ceremony which, by the desire of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent, I have been requested to perform and you to witness to-day, is one which is of mournful interest for us all. His late Highness the Maharaja designed this as a memorial to

his friend, Sir James Gordon, and though he had the satisfaction of seeing and approving it, he was not permitted to perform this last act of introducing the work of the sculptor to your notice. Otherwise his hands would have been the hands to-day to draw aside this covering. I could wish that some one more fitted than myself had to perform this act ; that there stood here to-day before you one better acquainted with all the circumstances which have so afflicted the State of Mysore during the last year. But I wish to express my great sense of the favor conferred upon me by Her Highness in asking me to unveil this statue, as thereby I have just one opportunity at the beginning of my sojourn among you of expressing my cordial concurrence in the deep sense of regret at the loss which has been uppermost in your minds of late. It remains for us to gather up the fragments that remain, to try and weigh the import of this ceremony and the intention of H. H. the late Maharaja in thus signalising the memory of his friend Sir James Gordon. Sir James Gordon came out to India and was attached to the Bengal Presidency as a Civilian, and after holding places there in subordinate and other positions, and after having been selected to serve in the Secretariats of the Bengal Government and of the Government of India, he was appointed by Lord Lawrence to be his Private Secretary ; and it is indicative of the deep interest which that Viceroy felt in the welfare of the Mysore State, and more particularly in the young minor Maharaja, that he deputed his trusted friend and Private Secretary to be the guardian of the young Maharaja. It was in that capacity that Sir James Gordon endeared himself to your late Maharaja, and perhaps mainly on that account is entitled to your regard and grateful recollection. The gentle manners of your late Chief, his kindness of disposition, his liberal-mindedness and his goodness were matters of common repute ; and I am assured by those who are competent to form an opinion that in the formation of that character, which was so justly loved and appreciated, Sir James Gordon had a very considerable share. But it was not only in regard to these personal relations with the late Maharaja that Sir James Gordon was illustrious. He was Judicial Commissioner and Chief Commissioner of Mysore during the period of the British administration, and subsequently, when in accordance with the wise policy of the British Government the Administration of the State was again placed in the hands of its hereditary Ruler, Mr. James Gordon became the first Resident in Mysore, and I believe that he performed the duties of the office of Resident no less satisfactorily than those of Chief Commissioner, a task which perhaps was not so easy for a man who had held the reins of Government but had to sink his paramount authority and become the councillor, friend and adviser of the State over which he had watched for so long. It only remains for me to say that Her Highness the Maharani-Regent has deemed this to be a very fitting opportunity for unveiling this statue by reason of the fact that so large a number of Representatives of Mysore Territory are present on this occasion, and to them I appeal on the two grounds which I have endeavoured to set before you. I have endeavoured to put before you the claim which Sir James Gordon has upon your grateful recollection by reason of his having secured the affection and esteem of your late Maharaja, whom you so justly hold in such high veneration. I have endeavoured also to put before you how he fulfilled the high duties of Chief Commissioner and Resident, in a manner which was conducive to the best interests of the State ; and now I appeal to you on this occasion to render such assistance as you are able to do to those administrators who are at present charged with the duty of governing this country ; to strengthen the hands of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent, who has been called after her great sorrow to undertake a large share of responsibility in this matter ; to strengthen the hands of the administrators who have been the trusted agents of such men as Sir James Gordon and his predecessors and successors in office ; to strive by your loyal advice, foregoing all selfish aims and individual interests, to strengthen the Administration, upholding the hands of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent and her advisers, and to prepare for the introduction of the young Maharaja's Rule under circumstances which shall be conducive to the best welfare of the people and to the success of his Administration. I will now unveil the statue.

5. The Assembly met at a little after 12 noon on the same day. Rajyadhurandhara Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, K.C.S.I., Dewan, presided. There were present Rajadharmapravina T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty, C.I.E., Mr. P. N. Krishnamurti and Mr. Abdul Rahman, Khan Bahadur, Members of Council, the Judges of the Chief Court and the principal Officers of the State. Mr. Mackworth Young, C.S.I.,

Resident, Captain Erskine, First Assistant to the Resident, and other European and Native Guests of H. H. the Maharani-Regent were also present.

6. The Dewan opened the Assembly by reading an Address giving a brief account of the principal events of the past year and a brief retrospect of H. H. the late Maharaja's reign. A Kanarese translation of this Address was read by the General Secretary. This was followed by Mr. Amblè Anniya Pundit's speech on behalf of the Assembly, lamenting the untimely demise of H. H. the late Maharaja and conveying an expression of heart-felt sympathy to H. H. the Maharani-Regent and the Royal Family. Pundit Rajagopalacharaiya of Chikballapur then read an address in Sanskrit verse expressing the universal sorrow of the people on account of the demise of H. H. the late Maharaja and eulogizing his brilliant reign, and Pundit Tiruvaymoli Tirunaranachar of Melkote also read a paper in Sanskrit to the same effect. The meeting was then adjourned.

7. On the 5th October, the Assembly proposed the erection of a suitable Memorial to H. H. the late Maharaja, the wisdom of whose Rule and the benefits which had accrued to the people therefrom were dwelt upon at some length by several of the Members present. The Dewan replied as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,

It is gratifying to us to hear the suggestion made by you that a national Monument in the form of an equestrian Statue should be erected in the Capital of the State for perpetuating the memory of His Highness the late Maharaja. The emotion evoked by the heavy calamity which overtook the State in December last has already found expression in various ways and forms in different parts of the Province, and it is only natural that now when the Representatives are assembled in the City of Mysore at the Annual Dasara you should give voice to the deep and universal feeling that nothing short of an equestrian Statue will be an appropriate and fitting Memorial to the late Maharaja.

You will be glad to hear that Government cordially respond to the wishes of the people as expressed by you in this assembly.

This announcement was received with acclamation by the whole Assembly.

8. The Mahomedan community of the Province next presented an address giving expression to their deep sorrow at the untimely demise of H. H. the late Maharaja. The address bore testimony to the impartial treatment accorded by the late Maharaja to all classes of his subjects and to the steady personal interest which His Highness had evinced in the progress and welfare of the Mahomedan community. The address concluded with the hope that the present Government would continue to show the Mahomedans the same consideration that they had been receiving during the rule of His late Highness. The Dewan replied as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,

I am sure Her Highness the Maharani-Regent will be highly gratified by the appreciation shown by you of the impartial Rule of His Highness the late Maharaja, and of the measures adopted by him for the advancement of his Mahomedan subjects.

You rightly say that equal regard for the feelings and interests of the Hindu and Mahomedan sections of the community has been the traditional guiding principle of the Mysore Raj. You may rest assured it will ever be Her Highness the Maharani-Regent's endeavour to promote in every possible way the welfare and prosperity of the Mahomedan population of this country.

Finally, Her Highness thanks you for the terms of appreciation in which you refer to the special honor shown to prominent leaders of your community on recent occasions, and I can assure you those instances are only illustrative of the consideration habitually shown in this State to the natural heads of the Mahomedan community.

9. The Assembly held its sittings every afternoon from the 2nd till the 7th October. The discussions began with an address (*vide* Appendix B) from Captain J. Pryor of the Kolar Gold Mining Board on the requirements of the Gold Mining Industry in the Province. The General Subjects were next discussed and local matters relating to the various Districts were afterwards disposed of and the Assembly broke up on the 7th idem.

10. The Dewan's Address and a brief summary of the subjects discussed at the Assembly and of the replies of Government, are appended.